

# Free Living Amoebae

Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control Services  
Office of Infectious Disease

## WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Nausea,  
vomiting

Severe  
frontal  
headache

Fever

Stiff neck

Seizures

Hallucinations

## WHAT ARE FREE LIVING AMOEBAE?

Germ that lives in warm fresh water: like lakes, streams, in dirty pools or tap-water. They are not harmful if swallowed, but if dirty water goes up your nose, these germs can get into your brain and make you sick.

## HOW DO I AVOID GETTING THEM?

These germs can live in regular tap water. If you do any kind of nasal rinsing, use bottled or boiled water to stay safe!

Remember, these germs are not harmful if swallowed, but be careful of getting water up your nose!

## WHERE DO THESE GERMS LIVE?

Lakes

Tap water

Pipes

Water  
heaters

Warm  
water

**Contact**



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